

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated December 21, 2004, the Examiner required an election between Invention I, claims 1-28 and 58-72, directed to a method of forming an electrical connection, classified in class 29; Invention II, claims 29-57, directed to a connector connecting conductors, classified in class 439, subclass 181; and Invention III, claims 73-81, directed to a connector with a seal, classified in class 439, subclass 587.

According to the Examiner, Inventions I and (II, III) are related as apparatus and product made. According to the Examiner, the inventions are distinct because the claimed connector can be made by a different process, such as molding.

The Examiner further states that Inventions II and III are related as subcombination and combination, and are distinct because the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because a different type of connector, such as a coaxial connector, can be sealed by the support core. Furthermore, the Examiner states that the subcombination has a separate utility such as it can be used to connect multiple conductors.

Furthermore, the Examiner states that the claims are directed to patentably distinct species of the claimed invention: Species 1: Figures 1D-G; Species 2: Figures 2-8.

Applicant respectfully submits that the method of forming an electrical connection of Invention I is related to the connector connecting conductors of Invention II and the connector with seal of Invention III, and that a single search can be performed to evaluate the patentability of all claims and would not place a serious burden on the Examiner (MPEP §803). Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submits that figures 1D-G and 2-8 are related, and that a single search can be performed to evaluate the patentability of all claims reading on these figures and would not place a serious burden on the Examiner. Accordingly, it is believed that the restriction and

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election requirements are not proper and withdrawal of the restriction and election requirements and examination of claims 1-81 is respectfully requested.

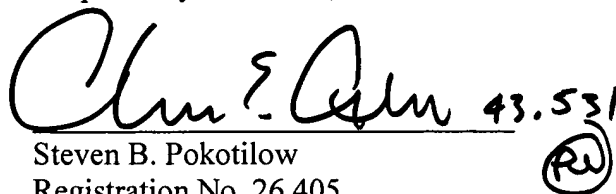
Notwithstanding the above, in order to comply with 37 C.F.R. §1.143, Applicants hereby provisionally elect Invention II, claims 29-57, drawn to a connector, and further provisionally elect Species 2, which corresponds to figures 2-8, to prosecute in this application.

Applicant's provisional election is made without prejudice and Applicant respectfully reserves the right to file later divisional applications directed to the claims not elected.

Applicants respectfully submit that all outstanding requirements have been addressed and are now either overcome or moot. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of this application is respectfully requested. In the event that there are any questions, or should additional information be required, please do not hesitate to contact Applicant's attorney at the number listed below.

No fee is deemed necessary in connection with the filing of this Election with Traverse. However, if any fee is required, the Examiner is hereby authorized to charge the amount of such fee to Deposit Account No. 19-4709.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven B. Pokotilow", followed by the number "43.531" and a circled "RW" monogram.

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